

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7711

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: LAFAYETTE FOUNDATION

REF: STATE 296574

FOLLOWING FROM PAO ANDERSON

1. PRESIDENT OF CHAVANIAN-LAFAYETTE FOUNDATION IS M. RAYMOND PAGES, PRESIDENT OF A NATIONALLY KNOWN COMPANY IN LE PUY WHICH MANUFACTURES AND DISTRIBUTES BEVERAGE PRODUCTS.

2. FOUNDATION WAS CREATED ABOUT TIME WORLD WAR I BY GROUP PUBLIC SPIRITED AMERICANS EAGER TO SAVE LAFAYETTE'S BIRTHPLAC E. NON-PROFIT CORPORATION CHARTERED DELAWARE AND ENDOWED WITH TWO OR THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS INVESTED IN U.S. RESTORED CHATEAU AND EXTENSIVE GROUNDS WHICH IT OWNS UNENCUMBERED AND NOW VALUED IN MILLIONS DOLLARS.

3. FOUNDATION PRESERVED ORIGINAL CHATEAU BUT ADDED FACILITIES TO CREATE CENTER FOR WORLD WAR I ORPHANS AND TUBERCULAR CHILDREN, TAKING CARE OF MORE THAN 30,000 OVER SEVERAL DECADES. CHANGES FRENCH SOCIAL CONDITIONS OBIATED THIS FUNCTION AND FOUNDATION NOW CONVERTING QUARTERS INTO FRANCO-AMERICAN CULTURAL AND ACADEMIC CENTER, HOPING ATTRACT STUDENTS, SEMINARS, ETC. JOINTLY AND FROM BOTH COUNTRIES.

4. ROOM IN WHICH LAFAYETTE BORN FULLY PRESERVED ALONG
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WITH CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MEMORABILIA, E.G. BRACE ORNATE

PISTOLS GIVEN LAFAYETTE BY WASHINGTON.

5. DISTANCE FROM PARIS MAKES CHAVANIANAC LESS KNOWN AND VISITED THAN OTHER HISTORIC SITES BUT THANKS DEVOTED WORK FOUNDATION HAS BEEN PRESERVED AND HAS PROSPECTS FOR REASONABLY ACTIVE FUTURE.

6. FOUNDATION RECEIVING EXTENSIVE SUPPORT FROM FRENCH ROTARY CLUBS WHICH FINANCING RENOVATION NUMBER OF ROOMS FOR USE BY VISITING STUDENTS, RESEARCHERS, AND SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS.

7. FOUNDATION'S BOARD MEMBERS KNOWN TO EMBASSY AND CREDENTIALS IMPECCABLE. W. ALLEN WALLIS, CHANCELLOR UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, IS MEMBER AND HAS TAKEN SOME INTEREST IN PRESERVING AND RE-ACTIVATING CHATEAU. LIKE MOST SUCH FOUNDATIONS, CENTRAL PROBLEM IS FINANCING; I.E. INCREASING CAPITAL AND INCOME TO KEEP PACE WITH PRESENT-DAY COSTS.

8. SENATOR WEICKER'S INTEREST AND PRESTIGE WOULD BE WELCOME ADDITION TO FOUNDATION BOARD.
RUSH

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